

LOWPROFILE

"There's a strange fulfillment in disappointing people,"

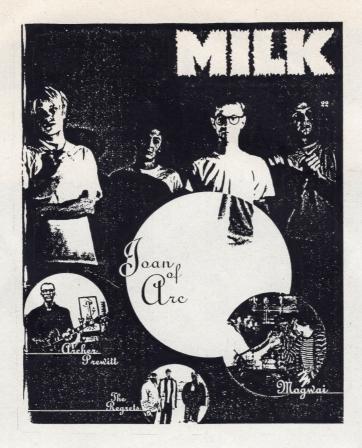
Tim Kinsella says with a chuckle, recalling a review that accused his band of Xeroxing such revered undie-music groups as Palace and Gastr Del Sol. While it's true that Joan Of Arc often parallel the avant-rock of their Chicago citymates, and Tim's cracking vocals unintentionally recall Palace brother Will Oldham's, the band aren't counting anything but their maturation as a direct influence on their music.

Swelling their ranks with guest musicians and occasionally switching instruments. Tim and his brother Mike, Sam Zurick, Erik Bocek and Jeremy Boyle unite eccentric experimentation with artful, angular rock reminiscent of Mike. Tim and Sam's former band. Cap'n Jazz. But where some experimenters use studio editing and electronics to distort or fracture a song. Joan Of Arc use them to create harmony. They dubbed their Jade Tree full-length A Portable Model Of "a concept album" for both its overall theme (which Tim is shy to divulge) and its uniaxial flow.

"It was our whole lives for a while. Tim says of the record. "We figured out the sequence of the songs about halfway through recording and then rearranged some of the songs accordingly, and rewrote a lot of the lyrics accordingly so that it would work as a whole."

While A Portable Model Of and the two singles that preceded it might strike Cap'n Jazz mourners as less immediate. Tim considers Joan Of Arc's music to be "a continuum" of everything that led up to it. "I was 20 when Cap'n Jazz broke up." he says. "We were young and idealistic, inspired to jump around and rock out. I'm probably more cynical now: I don't know but can't just be excited to think. Oh, this song will rock hard. That just isn't interesting to me anymore" —Aaron Burgess





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	Juan	or are
	DAVEY VON BOHLEN AND TIN KINSELIA	
	(FAR RIGHT) PLAYED TOGETHER IN CAP'N JAZZ, A SPAZZ-ENO RAND WHOSE STAR BURNED BRIGHTLY AND	
	QUICKLY. DAVEY MENT ON TO THE PROMISE RING, WHILE TIM FORMED	
	JOAN OF ARC. THAT BAND JUST RELEASED THEIR FIRST ALBUM, A PORTABLE MODEL OF, TO WHICH	
	DAVEY CONTRIBUTES SOME BACKING VOCALS. TIN JOINED THE PROMISE	
	RING ON THEIR RECENT EUROPEAN TOUR AS A ROADIE, AND THE SEED- LINGS OF THIS INTERVIEW MERE	
	BORN. THE ACTUAL SIT-DOWN TOOK PLACE A FEW DAYS AFTER THE	
	DVB: What do you think the five most important words on the	L. C.
	Joan of Arc album are? Keep in mind I've only listened to it internetly probably five times, and still don't know all the words on it.	group of all of us involved trying to do what seems as natural as possible to us. DVB: So it's a secastic thing, seeing that it's a concept album of how your
	TK: I don't want to single any out or break it down into some kind of slogan, because that would be counter-productive I guess the title of the record would explain the whole thing more	tr. Right, like any honest record would be a concept of "This is the life of the people who made this and this is how they see the world and how they
_	than any single lyric could. "How Memory Works" would be the three most important. That works with the little boxes making a psingle pattern; they're each separate little boxes but they make	spit a back." DVB: How accurate would you say your concept record is? I don't know exactly how to word that How many pieces of Joan of Arc have been left
	one big whole, just like each song is one separate inte track. Like track three is trapped in there, but it's part of the whole. DVB: So track three is important, but without track two and track.	Out? Probably a million TK: Yeath, all is could really recreased in the those months that we seem!
	four TK: Right, it's like track three is an isolated part of the whole. I guess the key term would be compartmentalization. That's how	songs. But then we re-arranged them and re-wrote a tool of the lyrics while recording. So it's a very accurate depiction of us in those three months, because we were obsessed with it, it was altered and all we talked
	the songs work; that's how our memories work; that's how our lives work. DVS: Would that be how Joan of Arc works?	about. We had pages and pages of ideas written down for every one we'd use. The only parts that wouldn't be entirely accurate would be the flaws.
	TRC Very much. The music flickers by with jump cuts but we try to make it pretty. I think we succeed at it. I think most bands that have similar ideas with the jump cuts all over, but it doesn't	in the recording process. DVB: We were taking earlier about you made reference to yourself as an older human being. It's fairh obvious through your music that I'm Krissela
	usually seem to flow, it's jarring. Even though ours are occasionally jarring, it's more than just shocking or anony	— there's a new Tim in this band. This band was an obvious change TK: From Cap'n Jazz you mean. DVB. Yash, Irom even/thing before. You mentioned that people think your
	Does that make some? DVB: Yeah. So the record is a description of how memory works, how Joan of Arc works, how Tim Kinsela works, but how	hriss suck now and you talk about yourself as "Now I'm like this" How matters is the new Joan of Arc. Tim as compared to before TK: I think I'm the same. To me, this band seems like a very logical.
	exact a representation of the way your life works is this record? With that, how well did you represent what you wanted to with this record?	extension of Cap'n Jazz. The first song on the first Cap'n Jazz seven- inch, 'AOK,' there was like a pretty metodic pert and a powerful part, and a strange part in the middle of it. As that band wend on we out better at
	TK: I'd say the record's not everything I'd like it to be. There are little flaws in the whole. It's pretty close to how I heard it in my head. I imagine people who haven't heard what I hear in my	fusing all those elements into one part. In this band, I'm not really concerned about power. I'm not gonal yeal for people's attention, I guess that's more mature, but I don't like to think of it in terms of mature. I'm not
	head won't notice those flaws. As far as how well it follows me, I never thought about it in those terms before. I guess it says it's a concept album on there, that's a little joke. "Concept	a particularly mature person, I don't think. What you were referring to is when I mentioned that I had a
	album' is not very personal; there's nothing of the artist, and the whole record is about a conspiracy or a hormr story or	friend list me that he hates my fyrics now but that he loved Cap'n Jazz fyrics. I'm not trying to do anything
1	something. I guess the concept of this record would be the	interviewed by davey von bohlen of the promise ring

ifferent. I'm not looking for the new me or something. It's	TK: Paris that you don't appreciate
trange that some people hate us so much, they seem to take it	DVB: I don't know if I don't appreciate them, just that I can't identify
sersonally that we don't want to some around anymore. It's	with. There's some parts of the record that I'm identifying with now.
sersonally that we don't want to jump around anymore. It's rustrating.	Some parts of the record I identify with as things that I've already
DVB: Would you saythe whole "ex Cap'n Jezz" thing is helpful?	been through and gone by I would imagine, since every person to
IK: When Cap'n Jazz broke up and me, Sam, and Eric started	on a different level I guess I was wondering what sort ol I don't
eleying together, it was just Cap'n Jazz sounding stull but it didn't have the same energy or feeling It was not that exciting. We all	know what the question is here.
vave the same energy or feeling It was not that exciting. We all	TK: I guess what you're referring to is that there are vast variations
perfected instruments again, and it was still not that exching. It	between songe.
bolt us a while of playing together on and off for a year	DVB: Yeah, there are parts where I'm going "That's me night now, that
separately and together — until we finally got the songs that gave as the feeling we wanted. It's not the same feeling as in Cap'n	was me five years ago. Itsel's probably going to be me in five years."
as the feeling we wanted. It's not the same feeling as in Cep'n	But I have no idea. It's weind how the record expands ien years of my
lazz, I don't feel like I'm going to keel over and die because I'm so	life, yet flows almost flewlessly I felt like I got into the record without
sut of breath from screaming. But it's the same feeling of	ever seeing those separations, but at the same time identifying with a on completely different levels.
satisfaction. I wouldn't feel satisfied if we were still doing the	TK: The way that we extent the whole record, that was definitely kind
same thing. It's just natural; who wants to do the same thing over	of intentional. There's times when it's supposed to be starting and
and over?	there's times when certain repetitions of things or certain fades,
DVB: I'm sure you've never thought of this out its weint. How	where you're almost supposed to forget you're listening to a record.
does Joan of Arc as a band flow as far as between the record. The	DVB: 4 works.
people in the band, and the listener? TK: Ther's actually something I've thought of quite a bit.	TK: Thanks! As for how we did it, a few people have said that what
DVB: Then you're wend.	we've succeeded at is playing diverse songs without sounding forced.
TK: I'm not weird. A lot of the times I see bands that really don't	I think for some reason we just feel we can do anything: I don't know
rock out, like the music isn't really inspiring, but they're treaking	I think for some reason we just feel we can do anything; I don't know what made us think that. We've written three songs since the record
out, jumping up and down, and they just look like looks. The way	that don't sound anything like each other or anything on the record. If
rock music works; like what punk rock was to me as a teenager or	we're expressing our own identities, whether its two clock radios or
what Bush is to millions of teenagers now — is like "ooh, this	the band, it's still part of the same whole.
fortured guy's really getting it out of himself on stage." We don't	DVB: The letics start to drop out later in the record It gets to the
do that. We're never over-emotional and I think that's quite	point where there are barely any
purposeful. We don't have to try too hard not to have tantrums; it	TK: There's kind of an odd pacing on a record. If we were under
comes very natural to us. That's not to say there's no emotional	some sort of major-label constraints, I think the order would've been
impact, but I don't want the way that we affect people to be "Oh,	very different. The first song is practically a cappella, written around
bot how affected I am and I want you to feel pity for mel' or "I	the vocals more than the instruments. And then the second side
want you to relate to me?" It's more open to interpretation; it gets	there's only a vocal phrase every five minutes. DVB: There seems to be a lot of duality in the phrases you use
created in their head more. It's not hitting you over the head with how torkured I am. Along with that, the name of the first seven	TK: Ambiguity?
Inch "Method and Sentiment" is completely about that. There's	DVS: There's clerify of ambiguity
what you say and how you say it. I don't leet I could really touch	Tit: is that what you meant by duality?
someone by making a spectacle of myself.	DVB: Not really. I think you say a lot of things that mean two specific
DVB: That covers between Joan of Arc and the listener, but how	tion.
does the album fit in? You made the album and the album opes to	TIC It's true (laughs)
people	DVB: Is it more important that you do that, since you focus on less
TK: What are you saying?	words that mean more?
DVB: I don't know. You could be making a record, and the record	TK: It puts more pressure on those words.
is supposed to go to people	DVB: I guess the guestion would be, do you feel comfortable with the
TK: How accessible is it? Is it a user-friendly record? I would say	ambiguity that you used and B) do you feel comfortable with the
no. I don't think it's self-indulgent, though. There's probably parts	pressure that's put on those words?
that are self-indulgent, but it's not particularly self-indulgent in that	TK: I was just doing what I thought was right and I didn't feel any
we're the only people who know what's going on. But to really	pressure about it. As for the ambiguity, you know, it's the modern era.
appreciate it, you'd have to sit there and listen to it as a whole.	The ambiguity of the lyrics, I just like the sound, the repetition, the emplinees. The standard rock song imposes on the listener, this is
You've not going to hear it and immediately start bobbing your	what you're hearing. If we kind of float by, musically and tyrically, the
head to a groove it creates. Does that answer your question?	Estener's head starts to turn. They co-create it, so it makes for more
DVB: Not really, but I don't think that question is valid anymore.	active listening. Does that make sense? That's what I'm trying to do.
Let's telk about what level the record's on. The way i understand the record is that it's one emotional plane. like you're trying to	DVB: Breating it down into percentages, what percent of the time
create a mood.	does Joen of Arc and/or Tim know exactly what they're doing, kind of
TK: There's different moods that fit together to make one general	know what they're doing, and have no idea what they're doing?
identity for that 45 minutes. I wouldn't say there's no dynamic;	TK: Wool Good question. Did someone ask you that once? I don't
there are very different sounds. There's one song where it's just	know I never know exactly what I'm doing. Probably 50/50 on the
changing stations on a radio recorded at different speeds. To me	others I can never know exactly what I'm doing: I think I know what
personally, it has the same effect as a song on the record that's	I'm doing, but what I'm really doing is somewhere between what I
done with two guitars, bass, drum, and vocals. It's all to a	think I'm doing and what everyone else in the world thinks I'm doing.
particular end.	DVB: You atways think you know exactly what you're doing.
DVB: There are some parts of the record that I feel are on a level	TK: We always put a lot of trust in what we're doing. Occasionally we
that I haven't yet reached or haven't gone through, some that I	do something and then think, "Why did we do that?" It's probably 5
aiready went through, and some that I am going through now.	50 with those. Does that make sense? end

Cicadas chirping high

in the trees around a late-summer forest clearing, water burbling down a storm grate on a deserted city street a whisk breath. ing lightly on a snare drum, the concordant strains of a love

song, a young man's shrill voice suddenly demanding, "Let's wrestle!"

Welcome to the world of Joan of Arc, a young band from Chicago which, as guitarist and lead singer Tim Kinsella puts it, sometimes likes "throwing things together that maybe shouldn't go together:

He and I have been discussing his former infatuation with the films of cult icon Jean Luc Godard (Alphaville, Breathless, etc.), and he has just informed me that the title of Joan of Arc's first single, last year's critically acclaimed "Method and Sentiment," was

lifted from an interview with said director.

Despite any Godard-inspired hodgepodgery in the band's compositions, the debut full-length, A Portable Model Of, is as solid a recording as one could hope to find; especially coming from as sonically ambitious and consciously artistic an outfit as Joan of Arc.

While erudite, progressive acts, since at least the days of Captain Beefheart and Pere Ubu, have been content to inject bratty, self-consciously disagreeable sounds right into the

heart of their sometimes genius-laden recording experiments, A Portable Model Of somehow keeps its footing on that razor-thin line between obstreperous, acoustic risk-taking and safe,

poppish listenability.

"You ever hear of the Scissor Girls?" asks Kinsella, by way of explaining Joan of Arc's peculiar musical balance. "There was this big Chicago no-wave scene which I was always really interested in; but it was too overbearing and I couldn't handle it."

Although the Scissor Girls' music wouldn't exactly spring to mind as grounds for comparison, it is not surprising to hear him say something like this. Even more so than Kinsella's former act, the renowned Chicago anti-antiestablishment pop act Cap'n Jazz, Joan of Arc are anything but overbearing in their idiosyncratic approach to pop music.

Kinsella is at a practice session with the rest of his new band. The four musicians-though still working jobs and studying full-time-are practicing at least three times a week now, preparing new material for live performance.

The practice space is also the residence of Jeremy Boyce, who is responsible for many of Portable Model's inspired, luxuriantly-textured "synthesizers, sounds and noises." A wide array of bell tones, insect-like stridulations, taps, pops, sputters, tickings, gasps and .

JOAN OF ARC play at the Old Firehouse in

Redmond, WA 6/20; at Thee 0 in Portland 6/

21; at Arrowspace in Olympia, WA 6/22; and

at Velvet Elvis in Seattle 6/23.

hisses are contained on the recording, but somehow Boyce's efforts don't clutter the spare beauty of the

JOAN OF ARC By Ned Rust

simple rhythms and melodies of the tracks. Instead, his sounds contribute to the hypnotic, often Eno-esque atmospherics that are : also characteristic of the album

Rounding out the ensemble are Eric Bocek, on bass and guitar, and Sam Zurick (also of Cap'n Jazz fame), a jack-of-all-trades on percussion and wherever else he's needed.

Joan of Arc formed in June of 1996. but the members have been acquainted with each other since early on in their careers as disaffected high school students. Bocek claims that he and the others just sort of ended up with each other by social default; they didn't really like anyone else. These days other friends of the band include, not surprisingly, the members of the remaining half of Cap'n Jazz, the Promise

> Ring, with whom there seems to be a healthy spirit of competitionmusically and otherwise; that is, if there's any truth to Bocek's story about disrupting a Promise Ring show in Canada by hurling shaving cream pies at the performers. Apparently, the stuff got into the eyes and pick-ups of the guitarist, forcing the show to an abrupt end. Bocek says Joan of Arc's members are watching their backs these days

Indeed, one gets the impression that the band has a healthy competitive spirit when it

comes to the rest of the music scene and, perhaps, pop culture in general. Kinsella explains how the band came up with its name.

"Personally, I liked it 'cause there's this whole big movement in the whole indie rock scene of all these obscure names to name bands after. I guess it was a comment on that sort of thing. I mean, everyone knows who Joan of Arc

No, it's clear Joan of Arc set themselves apart from-and are, perhaps, even taking aim at-the rest of their milieu. Provided they continue to make albums like A Portable Model Of, there's no reason they shouldn't.

The tracks vary widely-from the beautifully layered, sonic landscape of "Count to a Thousand" to the startling percussion and naked melody of "Caliban"-but they are consistent in their appeal, often sliding a barb into the listeners' heads with such dexterity and stealth that they don't know they've been fatally hooked until its too late.

"Too smart to be a pop star, not smart enough not to be," sings Kinsella on "I Love a Woman (Who Loves Me)," the track which opens and closes the album in two different versions. It's a statement as self-conscious and equivocal as the music which shores it up and, while these are qualities that often make today's progressive music unlistenable, they are also-in the right dosage-necessary in-

gredients in all vital works of art. It appears Joan of Arc are too smart not to have figured this out.

The members of Joan of Arc1 JUST SORT OF **NTHFR** by social

default; they didn't really like anyone else.

TheRocket



JOAN OF ARC Method & Sentiment (7")

Jade Tree, 2310 Kennwynn Road, Wilmington, DE 19810 302.292.1379 jadetree@jadetree.com

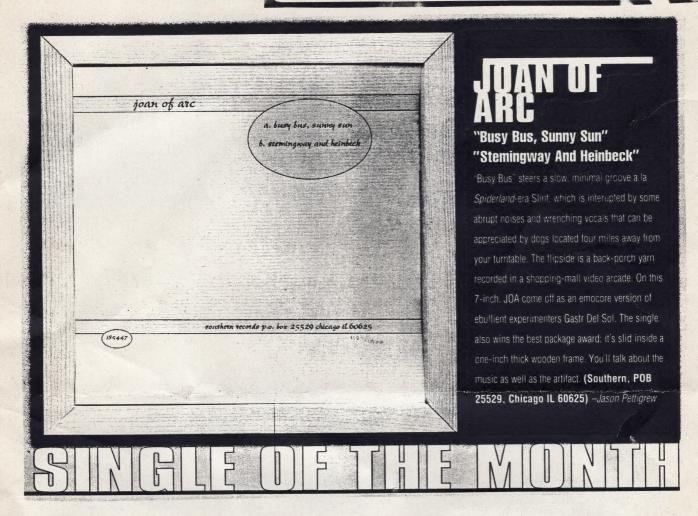
Chicago group Joan Of Arc (which incidentally, just finished its first tour with the Promise Ring) has heavy emo-rock tendencies. But on its first single, the group seems to be reaching for something a little less typical. "Didactic Prom" is built upon a familiar sounding rock groove, but the band works hard to disguise it with erratic pauses and beats, and peripheral whirring noises. "Please Sleep" is an acoustic piece drenched in odd, chaotic recording nosies, while "Trial At Orleans" is a more predictable, emotionally wrought rock song. DAWN SUTTER

JOAN OF ARC "Busy Bus, Sunny Sun" (7")

Southern, P.O. Box 25529, Chicago, IL 60625 773.463.3796 info@southern.com

Joan Of Arc threw many non-French speaking rock fans off its trail by releasing its first single as Jeanne D'Arc. The band's straightforward, melodic emo-rock has become wildly unpredictable, as Joan Of Arc enters its experimental phase. "Busy Bus, Sunny Sun" combines and often covers passionate guitar melodies with erratic rhythms, noises and sound bytes; its only downfall is the grating, straining vocals that would make Will Oldham's voice sound like Pavarotti. The B-side's "Stemingway And Heinbeck" is more of the same, but with even more extraneous whirring noises and computer game blips and beeps, which run through the entire song. This sudden twist makes it near impossible to guess what Joan Of Arc might do next. DAWN SUTTER







JOAN OF ARC Method & Sentiment

With dynamic range between a purr and a low rumble, Joan Of Arc seem less to be playing songs than they are stringing lights around a Christmas tree or putting clothes on a skeleton. "Didactic Prom" and "Please Sleep" cross-pollinate Boys Life with Gastr Del Sol, daubing acoustic guitar and electronics over ghost drums and sparse, pained singing. "Trial At Orleans" does more to connect its own dots and sends the band's formula dancing down a dusty, linear road. Kenwynn (Jade Tree, 2310 Wilmington DE 19810) -Aaron Burgess



Joan of Acc A portable Model of Jade Tree

For a while, I seriously thought that I would never hear this voice again. The vocals and lyrics that made the legendary Cap'n Jazz so super have been reborn in Ioan of Arc. The same singer cries out the most abstract images to tunes of stripped down acoustic guitars that are ironically sprinkled with some spacey keyboards and creative samples. A vintage flavor with something extra, and I love it! They have the crazy, discordant parts, too. Something very original for those yearning for and demanding it. I tell you this: Jade Tree has in the past few years consistently put out the most fabulous releases around. I'll be right there with you guys, setting Christmas trees on fire.

-Christian Raumann

Joan of Arc

Method & Sentiment 7"

Jade Tree

Jack this Two of

I was pretty stoked when I got this. Two of these guys used to be in a band call **Cap'n Jazz** who put out an awesome LP last year. This is kinda reminiscent of Cap'n Jazz; but quieter, more sparse, and with some crazy synthesizer shit going down. It's got the same crazy sing song lyrics and fucked up voice cracking pop vocals. I'm totally into this. I'm hoping they tour. **-Scott T.**

Joan Of Arc - "Method Sentiment" 7" - Okay. Think back to science in high school. That scale where like zero was the middle and +7 was an acid and -7 was a base or something like that. Okay, Put Cap'N Jazz(who everyone should listen to) at zero. Cap'N Jazz broke up and now we have The Promise Ring who are at +7 on the poppy side. Joan Of Arc is like -7 on the noisy side. Combining guitars, drums, "electronics" and horns, Joan Of Arc provides three songs that are so weird, so out there, that they are amazing. The second song, "Please Sleep" is my standout fave with all the weirdness then a random poppy part. This is has a permanent spot on my record player. (Jade Tree) - RR

MUDDLE

joan of arc: method sentiment 7"

jade tree 2310 kennywynn rd. wilmington, de 19810 did you ever wonder what happened to the rest of the members of cap n' jazz? well this is your answer. this is something different, the word eclectic comes to mind. very light music accented with acoustic guitar and timothy kinsella's vocals. it also has some disjointed drums and some electronic sounds to create a uniquely mellow sound. it's a plus for anybody with taste. 'two tylenol fetched but never swallowed'

FELL ON EVIL DAYS



Jeanne d'Arc [Jade Tree]- I just realized I had to edit a two page review of this single, not because it's great but because it challenged me to write a real critique... then I realized most won't like this because it's not "hardcore" -- so please move on to the next review-- now let me just use my preface from the other review. I said I went to art school, that I can be mellodramatic, that I can listen to bleeps and beeps, that I worship David Grubbs. There was some mention of punctuation and deconstruction. That it wasn't daring enough but still- the rest of you can move on now. [Finn]

CHANGE

Joan of Arc-Method & Sentiment 7"- This band is The Promise Ring on crack. No joke. Although that may have seemed like a negative statement, it wasn't. If you think about it logically, The Promise Ring is good, crack is bad, good always outweighs bad, and so therefore, Joan of Arc is good. The music is offbeat, weird, and swirly, and the vocals are pretty (usually off key though) and offbeat. A live performance would be quite interesting, I'd imagine. [Jade Tree] J * * * 1/2

STATE

Jeanne d'Arc Method & Sentiment Beautiful packaging is featured on this 7". The insert, with the lyrics dramatically laid out, could easily replace a page in any fiction/lit journal/zine. The music is sparse and edectically roomy, with somewhat uncomfortable-sounding vocals. MD (Jade Tree 2310 Kennwynn Rd. Wilmington DE 19810)

SPANK

JEANNE D' ARC-"Method Sentiment" EP

When I first heard this band I thought it was a guy with a lot of free time on his hands, a plentiful supply of hallucinogenics and his own studio. I was amazed to see a full band of individuals produces this mellow blend of noise and pop. Stop and go in nature, the drums are in and out along with the "trippy" sound effects. The only constant is an acoustic playing pretty chords and a whiny emo singer. Fans of softer noise pop will probably dig this. The singer and the "experimental" sound kind of turned me off, along with the typical meaningless lyrics, but I can respect them for not being confined to the narrow parameters of pop music. The last song is definitely the best. Jade Tree/ 2310 Kennwynn Rd./ Wilmington, DE 19810/ e-mail: jadetree@jadetree.com

SUB VERSION

Joan of Arc: Method & Sentiment

Super experimental stuff from these Chicago based lads. Contains former Cap N' Jazz members, but J.O.A. sound nothing like the former to me. The thing that stands out the

kind of wonderful, and you are all invited.

most on this record are the words Mr. Kinsella pens. Brilliant! "Trial at Orleans" is a masterpiece. Electric adventures in ambiance filtered through off kilter beats. This is some

JOAN OF ARC Method & Sentiment

This suburban Chicago quintet's three-song EP mixes promise and putridity in equal portions. They're definitely in a Drag City-centered orbit, paying unabashed homage to both Palace and Gastr, Del Sol by marshaling tasty, non-obvious guitars, whirring electronics and creative pacing in support of sandpapery singing and painfully pseudo-profound lyrics. I suspect these boys are young, so let's give them the benefit of the doubt; once they've worked out their allegiance to their influences they might come up with something creative. [Jade Tree, 2310 Kennwynn Rd, Wilmington DE 19810]

-Bill Meyer

MAGNET

3 songs